



State of Michigan
Department of Human Services
Bureau of Juvenile Justice

Michigan Female Responsive Task Force

“Serving Girls with Pride and Commitment”



Who are we?

The Michigan Female Responsive Task Force is a volunteer-partnership between community members, agencies, organizations, and courts throughout the state dedicated to ensuring that girls and young women in Michigan receive equitable services and resources. The task force has continued to operate without a budget and relies on the generosity and support of its members and community sponsors.



What is Female Responsive?

Female Responsive, often referred to as gender responsive or gender specific, is recognizing and understanding the unique needs and strengths of females while valuing the female perspective; celebrating and honoring the female experience; respecting and taking into account female development; and empowering young women to reach their full potential.*

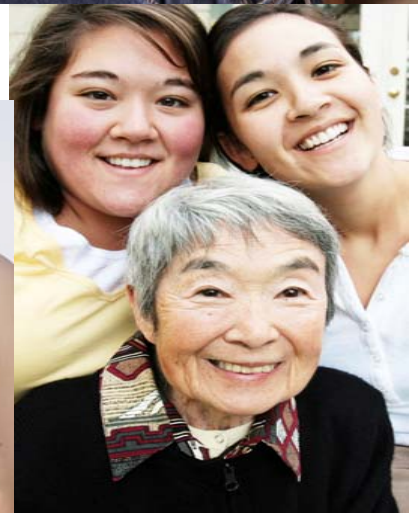
*Adapted from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention



What is our mission?



The task force is dedicated to ensuring girls and young women receive equitable services and resources to help them reach their full potential.



What do we value?

- GROWTH & EMPOWERMENT
- UNDERSTANDING & CONNECTING
- BEING PROACTIVE & STRENGTH-BASED
- EQUITABLE ACCESS FOR SERVICES

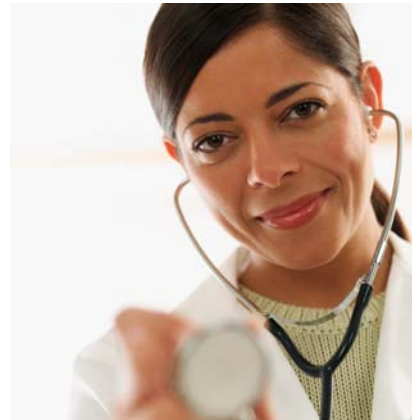


What do we envision?

- ❑ The task force provides leadership to the belief that there is value in supporting girls and young women to reach their maximum potential. Girls and young women in Michigan must become independent, educated, and healthy individuals in order to break the cycles of violence, dependency, marginalization, and poverty.
- ❑ To achieve our vision, we encourage and support the development of a continuum of individualized, female- responsive initiatives across the state of Michigan that support the six domains of adolescent female development:
 - ❑ Intellectual
 - ❑ Physical
 - ❑ Emotional
 - ❑ Spiritual
 - ❑ Sexual
 - ❑ Familial/Relational

What are we doing?

- ❑ Developing public awareness and commitment for female specific issues among policymakers, legislators, educators, and service providers in the juvenile and criminal justice systems
- ❑ Building community collaborations to provide direction and support
- ❑ Generating a sustaining commitment and financial support for female specific issues
- ❑ Creating a continuum of individualized and empowering support for girls and young women



How did we start?

Due to the alarming disproportionate rate of females entering the state juvenile justice system and a federal mandate, the Michigan Female Responsive Task Force was established in 2000. The task force is comprised of volunteers from private, public, and community organizations.



What have we done?

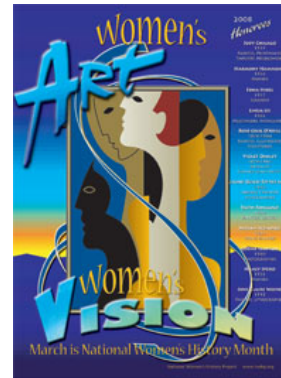
Since 2000, the task force has developed educational outreach materials, built community collaborations with girl-serving professionals, and sponsored statewide trainings focused on gender specific programming. The task force has continued to educate service providers, legislators, community members, courts, and other key stakeholders about female development and the necessity for gender responsive services.

What are some of our achievements?

- ❑ Completed 1st edition of Female Services Directory
- ❑ Produced a white paper entitled “Gender Responsiveness in Michigan”
- ❑ Offered and held grant writing training for interested stakeholders
- ❑ Sponsored six girls’ forums throughout the state promoting health, education, careers, and relationships, and offering choices to young women
- ❑ Provided girls with after-school programming for 16 months
- ❑ Hosted several community receptions for participants of the statewide BARJ conferences
- ❑ Held one-day training “Female Responsive 101” for community partners
- ❑ Developed an online training course, “Creating a Responsive and Restorative Environment for Girls”
- ❑ Held a statewide two-day conference in September 2001 in Ann Arbor, MI with over 250 professionals in attendance
- ❑ Prepared a five-year strategic plan entitled “It Could be Anybody’s Daughter” that was debuted at the 2003 BARJ Conference.
- ❑ Held the 2nd Statewide Conference on March 24-25, 2004 in Lansing, MI with a dynamic art exhibit, “Seen, but Rarely Heard: Voices of Adolescent Girls,” displaying the voices of young women

What have we done lately?

- ❑ Co-sponsored the women's history month event, "Strong Women: Hear Us Speak" on March 12, 2008 with the Adrian Girls Training School
- ❑ Co-sponsored 2008 ATS Spring Fashion Show on April 22, 2008 at DHS Grand Tower in Lansing, MI. with the Adrian Girls Training School
- ❑ Implemented and updated the Michigan Female Responsive Task Force website
- ❑ Facilitated gender responsive training, "Helping You...To Help Our Girls" in Grayling and Novi, MI in the spring and summer of 2008
- ❑ Developed and disseminated a comprehensive Female Responsive Resource List outlining gender specific books, movies/films, articles/publications, hotlines, and websites
- ❑ Co-sponsored 2008 Women's Suffrage Conference on November 03, 2008 at Adrian Girls Training School



What are our future ideas?

- ❑ Sponsoring and facilitating training on female responsive programming including transitional services for girls and young women
- ❑ Sponsoring and implementing local events and activities focusing on young women and recovery
- ❑ Collaborating with school districts to provide educational staff with knowledge and awareness about female responsive programming



Supporting and Participating Organizations

- ❑ 20th Circuit Court, Family Division, Juvenile Services
- ❑ 30th Judicial Court, Family Division
- ❑ Adrian Girls Training School
- ❑ Girl Scouts of Michigan Capital Council
- ❑ Michigan Bureau of Juvenile Justice
- ❑ New Beginnings Counseling Center
- ❑ Planned Parenthood of Mid and South Michigan
- ❑ Peckham, Inc.
- ❑ Wedgwood Christian Services

Interested in learning more about the task force or becoming a member?

Please contact:

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Michigan Female Responsive Task Force Website:

<http://www.michigan.gov/dhs>

Click on Juvenile Justice

